

The Washington Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Washington Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal P 1
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 New York Daily News _____
 USA Today _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____

Date 4 Aug 89

INTELLIGENCE FAILURES in the Middle East produce political finger pointing.

Conservatives argue that the post-Vietnam cutbacks at the CIA, especially manpower reductions in the Carter years, are the root cause of today's problems. More reliance was placed on electronic surveillance, which is largely useless in Lebanon. Also, anti-terrorist activities, including assassinations, were restricted.

But some Democrats pin much of the blame on the Reagan administration. Despite adding almost 2,000 people to spy programs, director Casey never built back Middle East operations after the 1983 devastation of the U.S. embassy in Beirut. Critics say he became too enamored with Ollie North-type escapades and relied too much for intelligence help on the Israelis, who had their own agenda.